

Date Mailed July 10, 2003
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BEFORE THE  
  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Investigation into the Wholesale Billing Practices of  
Wisconsin Bell, Inc., d/b/a SBC Wisconsin

6720-TI-183

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING  
AND  
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS  
AND  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

<b>Prehearing Conference Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, July 30, 2003 – 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Conference Location:</b>	<b>Public Service Commission, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, WI (Pecatonica Conference Room, Lower Level)</b>

**THIS IS A PROCEEDING**, opened on the Commission's own motion, that investigates the wholesale billing practices of Wisconsin Bell, Inc., d/b/a SBC Wisconsin. In the 47 U.S.C. § 271 checklist proceeding, the Commission determined that SBC Wisconsin had passed 100 percent of the MTP Testing Criteria regarding billing and that the record did not indicate the existence of any systematic problems in SBC Wisconsin's billing systems.

During SBC Wisconsin's checklist proceeding, certain billing issues were alleged by competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs). This proceeding will investigate those allegations in depth and develop solutions to any identified problems, using an evidentiary hearing if necessary.

Specifically, this investigation will conduct a comprehensive root cause analysis of alleged billing issues, especially those identified by CLECs in comments filed in docket 6720-TI-170; develop corrective action items if necessary; target completion dates; and assess the adequacy of billing-related performance measures. This investigation will also consider issues or problems related to bills submitted to SBC Wisconsin by CLECs. The Commission is aware that billing-related issues are being addressed in a CLEC User Forum, in regional performance measurement collaboratives and in other jurisdictions. To the extent possible, results from those other venues should be incorporated in this investigation so as to avoid duplication. Consistent with this objective, the Commission directs its staff to meet with SBC Wisconsin and interested parties in a series of prehearing conferences to discuss and resolve

issues and problems related to wholesale billing, all with a view to reducing the number of issues that may require hearing. The staff shall file with the Commission an informational report on the progress of the prehearing conferences by October 1, 2003. The first prehearing conference, however, as discussed below, shall develop an overview as to the further procedure for the docket, which the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) shall promptly report to Commission thereafter. The ALJ may, in his discretion, extend the first prehearing conference if he believes to do so would produce a more comprehensive and useful report for Commission review. The report may recommend additional actions, such as but not limited to, retaining a facilitator, determining the format of the anticipated evidentiary hearing, and conducting further third-party testing in docket 6720-TI-160.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that the Commission will hold a prehearing conference on Wednesday, July 30, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. in the Pecatonica Conference Room at the Public Service Commission Building, 610 North Whitney Way, Madison, Wisconsin, and continuing at times to be determined by the ALJ.

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of SBC Wisconsin. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from SBC Wisconsin in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The initial prehearing conference is being held to: (1) identify persons who will actively participate as full parties; (2) identify issues; (3) determine the date and time for additional conferences; (4) specify dates for filing written information; and (5) any other matters that will facilitate the investigative phase of this docket. Additional procedures necessary to conclude the docket, and whether the docket is a contested case, will be determined by Commission order in light of the report from the ALJ. This investigation is pursuant to the Commission's jurisdiction in Wis. Stat. §§ 196.02, 196.03(1) and (6), 196.199(2), 196.219, 196.28, 196.37, other provisions of Wis. Stat. ch. 196 and relevant Commission rules as may be pertinent hereto, and, as necessarily applicable, 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 and 252.

Parties will be bound by the designation of issues and the schedule adopted at the prehearing conference. SBC Wisconsin is hereby designated a party. Persons who consider themselves to be potential parties should participate in the prehearing conference. Any person desiring to become a party shall file a request pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.44(2m) and Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 2.21 no later than 14 days from the date of this notice. The request shall be addressed to Administrative Law Judge David C. Whitcomb, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7854.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs or services. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

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This building is accessible to people in wheelchairs through the Whitney Way first floor (lobby) entrance. Parking for people with disabilities is available on the south side of the building. Any person with a disability who needs additional accommodations should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Nick Linden at (608) 266-8950.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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